



2-26-1992

Letter to AALL leaders regarding AALL Executive Board Meeting, February 26, 1992

Judy Genesen

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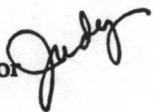
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TO: Executive Board
Council Chairs
Committee Chairs
Representatives
SIS Chairs
Chapter Presidents
1992 Nominees

FROM: Judy Genesen, Executive Director 

DATE: February 26, 1992

SUBJECT: Agenda Items for the Executive Board Meeting, April 24 & 25, 1992

Enclosed you will find a copy of the agenda form to be used to submit items for consideration by the Executive Board at its spring board meeting, April 24 and 25, 1992. Please note, if you are planning to propose a new AALL representative position, we must receive your proposal with ample time for the Executive Committee to review it prior to the Board Meeting. Call Carl Edgington at Headquarters if you need a copy of the "Procedure for Establishing a New Representation", from the Handbook for Representatives.

The agenda form reflects the Board's approval, at its November, 1990 meeting, of the following:

Any program, procedure, etc. adopted by the Board which requires funds not currently budgeted will require a motion that a specified dollar amount be added to the budget for the purpose of implementing that program, procedure, etc. If such a motion is not adopted, the program, procedure, etc. will not be implemented until such time as an appropriate motion amending the budget is adopted. This motion will become effective upon passage.

Tuesday, March 31, 1992 is the deadline for receipt of agenda items at Headquarters.

Please remember to submit a copy of your agenda item to your liaison, or the head of your council at the same time you send it to me. I look forward to hearing from you.

AGENDA ITEM

Requested By _____ Direct Response to _____

On Behalf of: _____ Board Liaison _____

_____ Requires Board Action _____ Information Only _____ Nothing For This Board Meeting

Summary/Background _____

Motion for Board Action: _____

Funds Required: \$ _____ Budget Revision Required: _____ Yes _____ No

Motion for Budget Revision: _____

Action Taken: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
Follow Up Responsibilities:

_____ Board Liaison

_____ Board Member

_____ Staff

Handbook revision needed: _____ Yes _____ No

RETURN BY: March 31, 1992To: Judy Genesen, Executive Director
American Association of Law Libraries
53 W. Jackson Blvd. Suite 940
Chicago, IL 60604
TELEFAX (312) 431-1097



AALL GOV-LINE REPORT



No. 4

January 24, 1992

Produced by the AALL Government Relations Committee
Written and Edited by Susan Lewis-Somers
Production Assistant: Ronda Bedgood

The Government Relations Committee of the American Association of Law Libraries produces Gov-Line, a recorded telephone hotline that reports the latest news from Washington and the states on issues of interest to law librarians, and the AALL Gov-Line Report, its print companion. Issues and institutions covered include federal information policy, the Library of Congress, the U.S. Judicial Conference, state affairs, and many other issues. A new issue of Gov-Line and the AALL Gov-Line Report is published every two weeks when Congress is in session. Anyone may call Gov-Line at (312) 939-7774. For further information about any of the issues discussed in these reports, you may contact Robert Oakley, AALL's Washington Representative, at (202) 662-9160 or through Bitnet at ROAKLEY@GUVAX.

Congress reconvened for the Second Session of the 102nd Congress on January 21, 1992. A number of bills of interest to librarians that were introduced in the First Session await further congressional action. What follows is a summary of some of these bills and their current status.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FEES-FOR-SERVICES BILL: On June 27, 1991 Democratic Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island introduced S. 1416, a bill that would authorize the library of Congress to develop fee-based services and programs. Thereafter, AALL and other library organizations expressed concern that S. 1416 would grant the Librarian of Congress broad powers to engage in fee-generating programs, with few limits on such fees, at the expense of traditional LC services. In response to these concerns, Senator Pell canceled hearings that had been scheduled before the Rules Committee on the bill. AALL Washington Representative Robert Oakley and Bruce Kennedy, a member of the AALL Government Relations Committee, met with LC officials in November to express AALL's concerns about the bill. Since then, AALL has drafted an alternative bill that addresses its concerns while still enabling the Library of Congress to engage in more limited fee-generating programs and services. LC officials have expressed interest in the AALL draft bill. Senator Pell has expressed his willingness to support the AALL compromise bill if LC officials agree.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT: On May 14, 1991 Democratic Senator John Glenn of Ohio introduced the Federal Information Resources Management Act, S. 1044, which would reauthorize the 1980 Paperwork Reduction Act and revise federal information policy. It would require the President's Office of Management and Budget to take steps to keep federal agencies better informed of their responsibilities to properly manage their information resources and to ensure the availability of agency information to the public. S. 1044 was sent to the Governmental Affairs Committee, but the Committee took no further action on it in 1991.

On May 22, 1991 Georgia Democratic Senator Sam Nunn introduced a very different reauthorization bill. Unlike Senator Glenn's bill, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1991, S. 1139, does not attempt to modernize federal information policy but merely focuses on the reduction of federal paperwork burdens. In addition, it does not require the OMB to adopt new practices to ensure that federal agency information is made available to the public. S. 1139 was also sent to the Governmental Affairs Committee, which, likewise, took no action on it in 1991. Senator Nunn's bill is supported by the Bush Administration and the small business community.

AALL is particularly opposed to the Nunn bill, S. 1139, and has been meeting with other interested organizations, including the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the Information Industry Association, in an attempt to draft a compromise bill that might ultimately win more congressional support than either the Nunn or Glenn bills. Such a compromise would reportedly address how federal agencies disseminate government information but would avoid the paperwork reduction aspects

of the Nunn bill. A draft bill is now being circulated among the parties for their review. Meanwhile, the OMB's long-awaited final revision of Circular A-130, a regulation the OMB uses to direct federal agencies in their collection and dissemination of agency information, may be stalled further if the Bush Administration institutes a three-month freeze on all federal regulations, as it is reported to be considering. Washington insiders suggest that the revisions will please the library community.

GPO WINDO ACT: On June 26, 1991 Democratic Representative Charlie Rose of North Carolina introduced the GPO Wide Information Network For Data Online (WINDO) Act of 1991, H.R. 2772. The WINDO bill would establish in the Government Printing Office a single point of online access to a wide range of federal databases that contain electronically stored public information. Thus, it would ensure public access to many federal databases that are now difficult to reach. H.R. 2772 was sent to the House Administration Committee and saw no further action in 1991. The major library organizations, including AALL, support the WINDO bill.

IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMATION ACCESS (IIA) ACT: On October 1, 1991 Representative Major Owens, a Democrat from New York, (and also the only librarian presently serving in Congress) introduced a bill that aims to make all kinds of government information more accessible to the public, including electronic information. In addition, H.R. 3459, the Improvement of Information Access (IIA) Act of 1991, would limit the authority of the Office of Management and Budget to establish policies on information management and dissemination, as it does now with Circular A-130. H.R. 3459 would require federal agencies to store information products and services in standardized formats and to disseminate them through computer networks, when appropriate. The IIA Act would control the cost of electronic and other information formats by limiting the allowable price for agency information to the cost of dissemination. Royalties and other profit-making fees for the reuse of government information, which are now contemplated by some agencies, would be prohibited. H.R. 3459 would also require federal agencies to issue annual reports describing agency information management policies. The IIA Act was sent to the House Government Operations Committee, where it awaits further congressional action. Like its cousin, the WINDO Act, the IIA Act is supported by AALL and other library organizations.